

EUGENE  
WEEKLY

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# The ORANGE ELEPHANT in the Room

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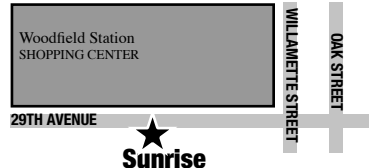


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# letters

## THE DRIVE-IN BOYS CLUB

This story ("Movie Nights," EW7-30) lists *Smokey and the Bandit* starring Burt Reynolds. The photo for the article is of the late Mr. Reynolds and two-time Academy Award winner Sally Field, the co-star of the movie.

How hard is it to include women in the credits?

Nyla L. Jebousek  
Newport

## NO NEWS ISN'T GOOD NEWS

As a sports fan growing up in the Chicago suburbs, I was accustomed to rolling out of bed and dialing WH 3-3080 to get all the recorded sports scores from the day before. The West Coast games that were designated "late" in the local papers (four of them when I was growing up: the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *Chicago Daily News* and the *Chicago American*) or games that extended past the newspapers' deadline (usually after midnight).

Living on the West Coast for the past 40 years that hasn't been an issue until now. The *USA Today's Register-Guard* should be named the *Late Register-Guard*, and while the disappearance of box scores is an irritant, we're going way beyond sports in much more substantive matters.

In short, I can't think of a reason to read this piss-poor excuse for what once was a credible local paper. I could easily drop 250 words listing the many egregious editorial decisions and mind-numbing deadlines this new non-local paper is adhering to.

Instead, I'll pose this question to fellow readers. Other than the obituaries, why would I subscribe to the *RG*? Seriously, I can't think of a reason. Virtually everything they're printing I can get elsewhere (including full, updated box scores). *Eugene Weekly* — any chance you can expand to a daily — or twice weekly? There is a huge hole where local journalism used to live in our town.

AM Traisman  
Eugene

## PORTLAND HAS SET THINGS BACK

Before all the national focus shifted from Black communities — whose lives depend on intelligent nuanced activism, and who have been putting in hard, unglamorous work into coalition building for some 200 years — to Portland and a bunch of spoiled white kids with no skin in the game (no pun intended) or informed knowledge of the issues, there was a national conversation on police models and the history of policing. For a second there I thought we were on the verge of real important change.

Then Portland, the whitest city in America, stole all the focus from those conversations and seriously set things back. Of course, once Portland's spoiled

white college kids get bored, the actual work will continue because for Black communities this is a real issue, a fucking life or death issue and not a chance to look cool on Facebook. Still, it's super sad and makes me really ashamed: Once again white privilege has fucked things up.

Ian Blumberg  
Eugene

## VOTE OUT EVERY GOP SENATOR

I am writing to express my dismay at the pattern and script President Donald Trump is running about elections. It is alarming! I can't stand to listen to him anymore! He is trying to discredit an election that has not happened yet and justify staying in office! I hold every Republican senator who helped keep him in office responsible for this ridiculous situation. It is clear that while Americans suffer and die, the Republicans hem and haw about what to do. It is clear they care more about the economy and their own pockets than the American people. I would urge every family member who lost a loved one due to Trump's failed handling of COVID-19 and every American who has lost their jobs, homes or business to vote every Republican senator out of office! I have just one voice and one vote!

I fear for the United States for the first time in my life. I am angry and feel helpless; to quote a famous phrase, "Who ya gonna call" when you are afraid of the president? I am retired and feel my joy and freedoms are being taken away by a pandemic and a president, while billionaires profit and support him. Thanks for letting me share.

Julie Thibedeau  
Cottage Grove

## DEMOCRATS ARE BLIND

As Portland burned, Democrats stood by and looked the other way. Gov. Kate Brown wouldn't call in the National Guard for help because (her words) "That's exactly what Donald Trump wants."

Portland Democrat Mayor Ted Wheeler announced to the mob that he will "stand with you no matter what."

The Legislature, ruled by Democrats, and Brown further hamstrung the police through bills stuffed with "emergency" clauses.

As crime explodes in America's major cities, Democrat mayors and city councils defund the police. In a Senate hearing on the violence, not a single Democrat on the committee would condemn the perpetrators. New York Democrat Congressman Jerry Nadler called the reports of violence "a myth." Leftist media skills repeatedly claim the demonstrations have been "peaceful."

Consumed with hatred for Trump, Democrats apparently feel that the un-



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rest will help defeat him in November and no price is too great to pay. They are blind to the reality that these violent demonstrations have little to do with George Floyd. They are part of a well-organized, well-funded Marxist rebellion against America, as leaders and activists of the movement openly acknowledge.

That message may play well in the liberal enclaves of Eugene, Portland and Seattle but as we've seen in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Bethel, Ohio and now Springfield, Oregon, small town America isn't going to stand for it. Kudos to the citizens in those communities!

Jerry Ritter  
Springfield

## POLICE ARE OUT OF CONTROL

On July 29, I witnessed the Black Unity protest march in the Thurston area of Springfield. The state of Oregon is absolutely right in investigating the illegal actions of the Springfield Police Department. Not only did the SPD actually surge the barrier that they themselves had set up, but they knowingly worked in concert with the counter protesters, many of whom were armed, unmasked and openly drinking alcohol.

This is not behavior unique to SPD. It is nationwide. We need a national set of credentials for police. That needs to in-

clude having the Supreme Court look at the concept of "qualified immunity," as there are no consequences for illegal behavior. We also need a national registry of police misconduct. Most of all, we need to curtail the undue influence of racist policies of the police fraternal organizations, and the police unions. This can only be done by local and state authorities. Until these things are addressed, we can expect more unrest from our BIPOC sisters and brothers. And I will be joining them.

James Gibboney  
Eugene

## MASK UP, SAVE LIVES

Once upon a time in COVID America, there were those who believed that the price of freedom is not wearing a mask and those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must not wear masks. Others just can't be bothered, don't care or believe this is all fake news. It's no worse than the flu, say some. I'm young and invincible is another mind set.

Between now and the end of the year we can save 66,000 lives if we choose. We know that some of those deaths will be children, and even asymptomatic children can suffer long term consequences. Children have suffered almost 339,000 cases by the end of July with over 97,000

cases in the last 2 weeks of July, a 40 percent jump. There were 25 child deaths in July alone.

COVID is as real and deadly as it gets. Anyone can be an invisible spreader. Everyone, please wear a mask and observe 6 feet of social distance.

Christopher and Deb Michaels  
Eugene

## THE PRESIDENT WE NEED

I just read an article posted on Facebook stating Joe Biden is too far to the right; it urged progressive Democrats to not vote for him. There were several ads as I was reading it urging support for Donald Trump. I did a media bias fact check, but nothing was found — suspicious. I ask all citizens for justice, equality and a healthy planet to vote for Biden in November.

We can work with Biden and pressure him to do the right thing. The Republicans — and Russians — want to divide us up so Trump gets another four years of insanity, racism, eroding our democracy, environmental destruction, tax cuts for the wealthy, deaths from mishandling the pandemic and denying science.

I believe this is the most important election in the history of our country as time is running out and the climate crisis will be impossible to mitigate. The

pandemic is a walk in the park compared to runaway global warming. Get out the vote, y'all.

Pam Driscoll  
Dexter

## NATIONS IN GLASS HOUSES

OK, I have Chinese friends. I am an eggman: yellow (Asian) inside, white (Irish/French) outside. Spend time in the Middle Kingdom and you are gone to another world, the oldest continuous culture on earth. My suggestion is to compare what China does to the Muslim minority with what America does to Catholic Latinos. I just do not find much difference.

As a 70-year-old combat vet, I certainly wish I could be proud of the country I was born in. More and more I am embarrassed by America's behavior towards the rest of humanity.

Ed Reynolds  
Dexter

## Letters Policy:

We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 250 words and include your address and phone number for our files. Email to [letters@eugeneweekly.com](mailto:letters@eugeneweekly.com), fax to 484-4044 or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.



VIEWPOINT BY GARY HOUSER

# Protest Violence Enables Trump

LET'S NOT GIVE THE PRESIDENT FOUR MORE YEARS IN OFFICE

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." — Martin Luther King Jr.

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind." — Mohandas Gandhi

In this past week, we have seen many in the nation honor the passing of Congressman John Lewis — one of the great leaders of the civil rights movement. In his autobiography, he stated that Martin Luther King was "the person who, more than any other, continued to influence my life, who made me who I was." Both were beacons of light on the tremendous power of nonviolent resistance and its ability to create social change.

I am old enough to have marched with King and yet young enough to be actively taking part in the protests following the murder of George Floyd. It has been heartening to see the number of people willing to speak up and be counted. At the same time, it has been disheartening to see some people dishonor the memory of such civil rights leaders by resorting to violence.

Much inspiration for King was provided by the nonviolent campaigns of Mohandas Gandhi. Many who advocate violence believe that the ends justify the means.

Gandhi addressed this issue directly: "There is no wall of separation between means and end.... The means may be likened to a seed, the end to a tree, and there is the same inviolable connection between the means and the end as there is between the seed and the tree."

His point is that once violence has been legitimized, a pattern has been set in motion in which violence continues to be legitimized over and over again. How many times have we seen this borne out by the annals of history? Gandhi and King taught that the only way to break this vicious and endless cycle is to not allow violence to corrupt the process of change in the first place.

But there is another response to the "ends justify the means" claim that is immediately and supremely relevant. Donald Trump is a classic demagogue who plays on people's fears. The violence being employed in Portland is providing the perfect imagery which Trump will manipulate in TV ads to stir up his base of not only voters but also financial support. These ads will not be

used on the West Coast but rather in the absolutely critical swing states that won the election for him in 2016.

From *The Atlantic*: "Now that it has been deliberately escalated, the violence will provide pictures, footage, video clips, and other material for Trump's media supporters, and eventually for his campaign advertisements." They will show "uniformed troops pushing back ... restoring order with a strong hand. And it will use the kind of language that appeals to that part of the population that prizes safety over all else."

When lasers are aimed at the eyes of officers and rocks are thrown, these are deliberate efforts to maim human beings. Even if anarchists wish to debate the ethical stance of nonviolence, there is a separate and totally legitimate question which begs to be asked. If you see Trump as the epitome of the greed and capitalism you say you adamantly oppose, why on Earth are you engaging in the very activity that can prop up his campaign and give him a chance to still win the moderate votes that carried his victory in 2016 and are quite capable of doing so again?

On the ultimate issue of survival of life on Earth, there are no margins to absorb setbacks. Four years of Trump wiping out efforts to prevent climate catastrophe have placed our world on the very edge of the point of no return. Four additional years will place us on the path to hothouse Earth when unstoppable heating bakes our life support systems and eventually turns Earth into a hellish wasteland.

Why are you giving support to putting him in office another four years?

Gary "Spruce" Houser has been involved in social change movements for four decades and is founder of the Point of No Return Media Project, which produces videos on climate distributed to news outlets for bringing science out of the abstract and for deepening urgency.

## The Blue in the Rainbow

THE LGTBQIA COMMUNITY FACES CHALLENGES WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, INCLUDING A LACK OF REPRESENTATION IN POLICING AND NOT FEELING PROTECTED BY THE COPS

By Joseph Cappelletti

Diversity in Oregon means that in addition to the important conversations people, businesses and government agencies in Eugene and Springfield are having about policing and race, local law enforcement also needs to look at cultural diversity, such as the LGBTQIA community, who often don't feel protected by the police.

Tim Morris, who ran for Eugene City Council earlier this year, says that as someone who identifies as LGBTQIA, he doesn't feel like a lot happens when he contacts the police department for issues such as harassment. "I feel like unless there's significant danger to my life, I tend to just not contact the police. I have contacted the police after being harassed and I was basically told, 'Good luck with that,' and hung up on."

According to UCLA's Williams Institute, Oregon has the largest number of individuals who identify as LGBTQIA in the U.S., and many of them live in Eugene. But it's hard to say if law enforcement reflects that demographic because as in most other professions, the sexual orientation and gender identity of police officers isn't information that is collected by the departments.

When asked about LGBTQIA representation, the Lane County Sheriff's Office said, "We do not collect that information from employees in our organization." The Eugene Police Department's LGBTQIA liaison is Det. Chris White, who said that while he can think of people from command staff to line staff who are a part of the LGBTQIA community, EPD doesn't take a head count, either.

**'LAW ENFORCEMENT IS  
PREDOMINANTLY A MALE-RUN  
INDUSTRY SO I HAVE THAT  
FEMALE PERSPECTIVE THAT IS  
ALSO DIFFERENT.  
I ALSO COME FROM A DIFFERENT  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION THAN MOST OF  
THE PEOPLE I WORK WITH,  
SO IT GIVES ME A DIFFERENT VOICE  
IN THE ROOM. AND A  
VERY IMPORTANT ONE.'**  
— Deputy Chief Stacy Jepson

Deputy Chief Stacy Jepson, who identifies as an LGBTQIA employee at EPD, says she can understand why showing the community just how diverse the police department is can help accountability. "The more transparent we can be as a police department, the better off we are. I certainly think that showing the community that we demographically represent them is very important."

Jepson returned to her hometown of Eugene last year after 23 years at the Hillsboro Police Department. Jepson says that she has seen the police force culture change significantly since she first started policing in the



Photo courtesy friendsofimmorris.com

'90s — just as society has. While it took her many years to come out to her coworkers, she says the importance of her different perspective, both as a female and LGBTQIA officer, is very important.

"Law enforcement is predominantly a male-run industry so I have that female perspective that is also different," Jepson says. "I also come from a different sexual orientation than most of the people I work with, so it gives me a different voice in the room. And a very important one."

Creating a more diverse police force begins with recruiting, which can often be difficult for a field that has discriminated against the LGBTQIA community. Even though transgender people are more likely to be victims of violent crime than non-transgender people, more than 57 percent of respondents to the 2019 U.S. Transgender Survey "feel uncomfortable calling the police for help when they need it."

In response to *Eugene Weekly's* questions, EPD's recruitment team says in a statement, "We have implemented removing names, age, sex and race information from our testing process," to reduce potential risk of biases. It says that, "events like the Orlando dance club mass shooting make communities more aware of the discrimination and vulnerability of our LGBTQIA community. These incidents are a time when outreach to our local community is critical."

EPD's recruitment team hired a full-time recruitment and background officer in January "geared toward diversity, inclusion and equality," according to the statement. It says that EPD partners with minority police associations and that the recruitment team has "participated in events including the Women in Public Safety Career Fair, the Eugene Pride Festival, the Eugene Asian Celebration and the Eugene Women's half marathon."

LGBTQIA awareness extends not just to the officers employed but to the policies they enact. For example, the

policy on recording information during an arrest states that the information to be recorded should include "the race, ethnicity, age and sex of pedestrian or operator of the motor vehicle stopped, based on the observations of the law enforcement officer responsible for reporting the stop."

The policy does not require officers to ask what an individual's pronouns are. When asked, Jepson responds that if officers are collecting information on individuals it needs to be accurate, and that there is room for improvement in those areas.

The LGBTQIA community interacts with police at a high rate because it has been one of the most targeted groups for both violent and non-violent hate crimes in Oregon. Twenty-six percent of all hate crimes in Eugene in 2018 were related to sexual orientation or gender identity.

"I often don't feel safe in Eugene. There's people that drive by and scream slurs at me. There's certain parts of the city I'm just not welcome in," Morris says. "And a part of the reason for that is a lack of safety from the police department."

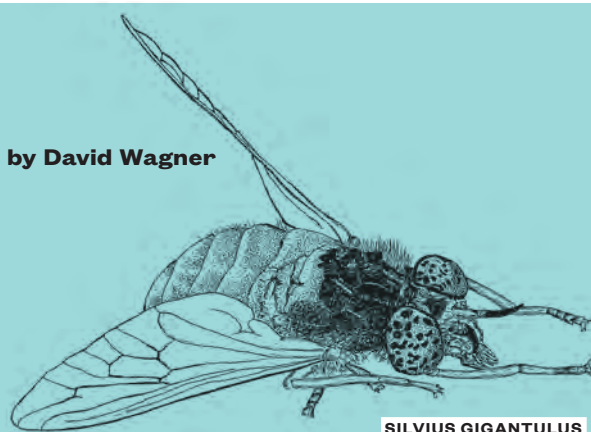
Additionally, six of the 10 hate crimes involving physical violence in 2018 were motivated by the sexual orientation of the victim, according to the city of Eugene's 2018 Hate and Bias Report. "The percentage of physical violence cases motivated by the sexual orientation of the victims more than doubled in comparison to 2017," the report says.

Jepson says the challenges that come with identifying as LGBTQIA have still affected her and others, both in the workplace and society. "I know several male gay officers that really have struggled to come out and share who they are and be open about who they are. I worked with one for a very, very long time that I knew he was gay but no one else did and he was really reticent to share that. So I think that still exists and there's still room for growth in that area." ■

# It's About Time by David Wagner

In recent years fire danger has been hikers' primary concern. Drought brought on by climate change has engendered fierce forest fires that have restricted access to large areas. North Pacific Ocean temperatures have been high in the past five years. The warm period extended into February of this year, when flowering of native plants was as much as three weeks early. However, there has been a shift to lower ocean temperatures recently, which may account for our cooler late spring. Although it's now hot and dry, the blackberries this year will not likely reach peak until the middle of this month. And no major fires have been reported. Yet.

It will be hard to celebrate my 75th birthday this month. We usually dedicate the occasion for an extended



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camping trip. Sadly, the grip of COVID-19 has kept almost all campgrounds closed with no prospect of reopening soon. Our favorite resort destinations are closed or are not suitable for old farts like me. It grieves me that ignorance and political posturing has aborted control of

the pandemic that affects everybody. We cannot forget this on election day.

Living in Eugene is a great blessing, for it is not hard to find places to interact with nature on a one-to-one basis. Bird watching and flower photography are favored by solitary forays. Not every one-on-one is enjoyable. Mosquitoes are bad enough, but the Golden Deer Fly, illustrated here, is a green eyed monster that slices, not stings. Like mosquitoes, only females drink blood.

*David Wagner is a botanist who has worked in Eugene for more than 40 years. He teaches moss classes, leads nature walks and publishes the Oregon Nature Calendar. Contact him directly at fernzenmosses@me.com.*

## slant

• It's months and months into this pandemic and every once in a while we take a deep breath through our fashionable face coverings and think, **"Wow, we are still here."** Newspapers, like other businesses, are taking a pounding from the corona recession, but *Eugene Weekly* is still covering the news and the arts, and still printing. And that is thanks to you folks picking up the papers, supporting our advertisers and the amazing contributions readers have made. There are some mornings when the news cycle is grim, our small news staff is swamped, and then an envelope comes through the mail slot that changes our mood. Sometimes it's a contribution and sometimes it's simply a nice note, but it makes a difference. One reader noticed our reporters walking down the street for interviews and dropped off two recumbent bikes! Thanks, readers. You rock.

• College sports administrators this summer contorted themselves beyond recognition in an effort to save fall sports — **notably the football cash cow** — in the face of COVID-19. Ticket sales? No, but there was TV cash on the table, and athletic cathedrals need to be maintained. No more. The Power Five conferences are now starting to fall in line with their smaller brethren. The Big Ten and Pac-12 announced Aug. 11 that they are canceling fall sports for 2020. Others will follow, even if they're kicking and screaming. It's the right thing to do. There's simply too much uncertainty about the coronavirus. Physicians affiliated with schools that have endured outbreaks note cases of myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle caused by the virus. COVID-19 is real, and it shouldn't have to fall on young men and women to keep the palaces afloat during a pandemic.

• Latest word from President Donald Trump is that he might accept the GOP nomination for president at

Gettysburg National Cemetery. **What better place for Trump and his Republican cronies to celebrate his candidacy than the battlefield where thousands of Americans died in just three days?** Trump's mismanagement of the pandemic — and the GOP's refusal to get rid of Trump — are allowing a thousand Americans to die every day in a pandemic that much of the rest of the world has under control. As journalist Carl Bernstein told CNN this week, we have a national emergency on our hands. It is Trump. Check out our cover story this week on some conservative politicians bucking the Trump-trend.

• The **Oregon Legislature came and went for its second special session** on Aug. 10. Sen. James Manning and the Legislature's BIPOC Caucus developed legislation that makes a stab at much-needed police reform in Oregon. One of those police reform bills was HB 4301, which limits police use of force and chokeholds. In a statement, Manning says chokeholds are wrong and lethal: "It is not a tool to de-escalate; it's a tool to take a life. Chokeholds have been used disproportionately against Black and Brown people, and sometimes even used against our kids. There's no excuse for that. Law enforcement should approach their work as peace officers, not as if they are going into battle. This change in law is important. It will save lives."

• **What do American Association of Retired People (AARP), front-line educators, the Warm Springs tribe and Black Lives Matter have in common?** Not one of them has been at the table as powerbrokers in Salem try to hash out a deal giving immunity to nursing homes, schools, business and government when their unreasonable action causes someone to get COVID-19. The first question is why are the most heavily impacted populations not at the table? The bigger question is why immunity at all? If an entity is acting reasonably it won't be liable. That's the law. Maybe if the above-named

were in the room they could get that point across to our legislators? Or better yet, maybe we should all call our local legislators. This is all happening beyond our very short special session, so we have time to talk about it.



• Joe Biden has named Kamala Harris as his running mate — a move that the NAACP called "a defining moment in U.S. history." What can we do to help defeat Donald Trump on Nov. 3? **Write postcards!** Go to [PostcardsToSwingStates.com](https://PostcardsToSwingStates.com) and sign up to send 200 postcards.

• What we are reading: One of our best read friends, Josh Reckord, has two recommendations: **Begin Again by Eddie Glaude** and **Caste by Isabel Wilkerson**. Reckord says they are both "timely to our current situation." *Caste* was on the cover of *The New York Times Book Review* Aug. 9.

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# Oh, WOW

THE WOW HALL'S ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING REVEALS A SPLIT BETWEEN SOME MEMBERS AND THE NONPROFIT'S CURRENT BOARD

By Taylor Perse

The WOW Hall has been vacant of people and music performances these last few months; like other music venues it was dealt a blow by the COVID-19 pandemic. But even as the venue remains empty, the board of directors, some of its members and a third-party group are disagreeing on its future.

The third-party group, known as Friends of the WOW Hall, say they are advocating for the nonprofit venue to restructure its finances and diversify the use of the building, but other members disagree, not wanting to make drastic changes to the longtime music stalwart.

Tensions between members of the Community Center for the Performing Arts, as the WOW Hall is formally known, and the new group Friends of WOW Hall revealed themselves during a four-hour annual member meeting on Sunday, Aug. 9. The membership passed the annual budget and operating statement. But the planned election of new board members failed when a new voting system, brought in by one of the feuding factions, didn't work.

"The board members scheduled a meeting. But was pretty much run by Friends of Wow Hall acting as a 'shadow' board," member Mayo Finch says. Finch was also previously on the CCPA board, until around 2015, he says.

Finch also said that Friends of WOW Hall implemented their own voting system for the board election.

The system, which comes from a national software company called EasyVote Solutions, was intended to be used as a way to vote virtually. But Finch says that the voting system was not approved by the board, and that a board candidate had set it up.

Bob Fennessy, publicist for WOW Hall, says that the owner of EasyVote said during a Saturday night meeting that payment to use the system was coming from Friends



Photo courtesy WOW Hall

of WOW Hall, instead of using WOW Hall's money. A candidate for the board of directors called Fennessy before the meeting on Sunday morning, he says, letting him know that they would turn over the EasyVote account to him, as an administrator.

"I never got that account," Fennessy says.

In order to vote, Finch says that a moderator of the meeting said that people could also vote publicly for who they wanted to elect, or by email.

"They were creating the guidelines and procedures on the fly, which were not approved by the board of directors."

Friends of WOW Hall, on its own website, asks for a change of direction for the facility. The group is composed of current CCPA members who are unhappy with how the current board of directors are operating CCPA. A lot of them have not been members prior to this year.

"Most of the people who joined the suggestion of Friends of the WOW Hall have not previously been members or volunteers," Fennessy says. An individual can become a CCPA member by volunteering 10 or more hours or by donating \$15 or more.

In an opinion column published by *Eugene Weekly* on July 30, Friends of WOW Hall founder and former CCPA board member David Zupan alleges the venue struggled with financial issues at the beginning of the pandemic.

Friends of WOW Hall say they seek to reorganize the music venue, diversifying the performances and the target audiences. This includes adding more classes and hosting shows for different age groups. Zupan also wrote that the finances would be structured more modestly, focused more on "giving back to the community" through service.

In a statement to *EW*, Zupan wrote that the meeting brought hostility towards candidates over the voting system. He adds that without Friends of WOW Hall efforts in creating their own procedures for a voting system, nothing would have gotten done.

"A number of staff members and their supporters heckled, were verbally abusive and often defamatory toward anyone expressing a different perspective than the one they shared. This included statements asking candidates they disagreed with to drop out of the election."

Another WOW Hall member, Fran Chylek, who says she was at the annual member meeting, says that the meeting didn't seem to be well planned.

"There is a schism between this particular group calling themselves Friends of WOW Hall and a lot of WOW Hall supporters," she says. Chylek adds that she has also heard a lot of hearsay and misinformation about the struggles between different groups.

"Things were not clear on what people wanted," she says of the meeting. After the meeting ended and no one was elected, she says that people were not really allowed to ask questions and didn't get answers.

Though new board members were not finalized, Fennessy says that the board of directors will determine when a new meeting will take place to vote again, within 30 days. ■

## HAPPENING PEOPLE by Paul Neevel

### Willa Bauman

Born and raised in Eugene, Willa Bauman is the daughter of Dana and Colleen Bauman, who opened their Dana's Cheesecake Bakery booth at the Eugene Saturday Market in the summer of 1980. They opened a booth at the Oregon Country Fair two years later, and Dana's Cheesecake has been a treasured treat at both locations ever since. "I was a month and a half old at my first Country Fair," says Bauman, who was home-schooled through high school and also took courses at Lane Community College. She spent four years in Portland to earn a degree in English literature from Reed College, where her graduating class was 300 students, then returned to Eugene and resumed seasonal work at Dana's. She also worked with her dad to turn a 100-year-old barn on the family property into a house. "I moved in in 2014," she says. "I was into power tools. I built chicken houses and raised pullets." In 2018, she began a master's degree program in nonprofit management at the University of Oregon and also responded to a job listing as operations manager of the Eugene ToolBox Project, a community tool library that was started in 2015. "I got the job," she says. "It seemed like a good fit. I know how empowering it is to build something for the first time." Toolbox Project membership is open to all residents of Lane County over the age of 18 and provides access to a library of more than 1,500 hand and power tools. Visit [EugeneToolBoxProject.org](http://EugeneToolBoxProject.org) to learn about membership, to view an illustrated catalog of available tools, and to reserve tools by email or phone. Bauman received her UO nonprofit management diploma in June, as the Toolbox Project began to reopen after two months of pandemic closure. "It feels great to be open again," she says. "We're growing so much and taking on new projects. It's really a lot of fun."



# Leaving the CIRCUS TENT

Some Oregon Republicans don't see President Donald Trump as the right leader for U.S., or their party

BY HENRY HOUSTON

**B**ack in 2016, then-presumptive candidate Donald Trump walked up to the podium at Lane Events Center as 2 Unlimited's "Get Ready for This" played. For about an hour, his yelled stump speech distorted the PA system in front of a crowd of about 4,300 supporters that was shoulder-to-shoulder for roughly one-third of the floor space.

He hit all of the "greatest hits" of his campaign, like asking who's going to pay for his wall, having the crowd boo the media and throwing out a protester who raised a Mexican flag — and looking away as his supporters threw punches at the protester.

At the end of his rally, after repeatedly pronouncing Oregon as "Ore-gone," he said "winning" was on the country's horizon if he was elected.

"You're going to see things happen, and we're going to start winning again. We're going to win, win, win," he said in 2016. "And you're going to beg me, 'Mr. President, we're winning too much, and we can't stand it in Eugene, Oregon.' And I'm going to say, 'I don't care. We're going to keep winning.'"

That was the 2016 election year. Now in 2020 some Oregon Republicans — some who are now former Oregon Republicans — are begging him that they can't stand his "winning" anymore. More than five months into a pandemic and more than two months into a historic civil rights movement, they are stepping away from Trump's Republican Party.

The party's defectors include Jonathan Lockwood, an over-the-top former Oregon Senate Republican spokesperson who says he couldn't take Trump's lack of leadership after years of broken promises and a neo-fascist response to Black Lives Matter-related protesters.

But Lockwood isn't the first Republican to abandon the Trump train. Trump has been a topic of the Oregon House floor debate from a Republican who serves a swing district and recently doubled down on his inability to lead during a pandemic and the U.S.'s recent civil rights movement.

While some conservatives say the U.S. works well with two healthy political parties that lean left and right and meet in the middle for policy, others are looking for change.

Trump's Republican Party is just another evolution of the political party, according to Rich Vial, a former Oregon legislator and someone who left the Republican Party while running for secretary of state in 2020. He says the issue is the two-party system, which embraces fringe candidates during the primary election.

## Trump's Circus Tent

Lockwood is no stranger to the Democratic Party of Oregon. The political party put together an attack memo on the former Oregon Senate Republican spokesperson and strategist titled "Republican Mouthpiece, Fear Mongering Twitter Bully." The report was distributed when

he left his communications position with the Oregon Senate Republicans to briefly run public relations for Republican Knute Buehler's unsuccessful 2018 gubernatorial campaign.

The memo has a photo of Lockwood wearing a tank top with "Stop Being Poor" written on it, which former reality star and hotel heiress Paris Hilton once infamously wore, striking a pose very similar to her with his arms stretched out.

Lockwood tells *Eugene Weekly* that he's been cast as a right-wing villain, but if you look at the issues, he's not right wing; he's aggressive. He adds that beating on Democrats when they deserve it isn't "right wing."

He says he supported Trump in 2016 because he was the guy who could beat Hillary Clinton. And Lockwood thought Trump would actually tackle issues like the student loan crisis. But that was campaign-trail Trump speaking. The White House version is unfit for the presidency, he says.

What finally pushed Lockwood away from Trump's Republican Party was when his administration decided to use tear gas for a photo op earlier this summer at St. John's Church near the White House. But Trump did even more damage. He decided to have his rally in Tulsa — the site of a 1921 racist massacre — on Juneteenth, killed student loan reform and rolled back health care protections for transgender patients during Pride month.

And while Trump said Joe Biden would be soft on China, Lockwood says Trump has ignored Uighur Muslims being sent to concentration camps. So Lockwood had enough.

Trump's Republican Party isn't the party that Lockwood signed up for. He says the party has long seen itself as the "big tent" party. It's a party that welcomes fiscal conservatives, the religious right, foreign policy hawks — and a lot more.

"Now under Trump, we have a circus tent," he says.

The party Trump leads is forcing the U.S. into a borderline neo-fascist state where racism prevails, he says. When *EW* talked with Lockwood, Trump had just retweeted a video from a Florida Trump rally, which begins with an old white man in a golf cart yelling "white power" to protesters holding up Biden posters.

"It was so alarming to me," Lockwood says. "I've worked with so many campaigns. In no operation that I've ever seen do you Tweet at a whim."

Trump's "Did I do that?" shrugging off the Tweet was like Steve Urkel from *Family Matters*, Lockwood says, but Trump has to know what he's doing, adding that Trump doesn't actually have a philosophy. It changes day-to-day on Twitter and is basically a stream of consciousness from an unwell man.

"When he goes away, so will those people, because there isn't room for that kind of politics," he says.

The party's unspoken rule about not criticizing the president is frustrating, Lockwood says. Back in the early 2010s with the Tea Party, he says, it was a mark of principle

and strength to take down leaders and call them out when they went against conservative ideals.

When he spoke out about Trump, Lockwood says, he heard positive responses from some politicians — although some people on the internet wondered if he'd been bought out by George Soros or if the Illuminati finally got him.

He says his change of heart shouldn't have been news to anyone. When President George W. Bush and First Lady Michelle Obama posed for photos together, he had posted online that the country needed more of those across-the-aisle moments.

He says a lot of Republicans are in the same position as he was — but many are afraid of retaliation for saying they don't like Trump. Since Trumpism has injected an element of cultism to the party, Trump supporters lash out at Republicans who criticize the president. He adds that it's ironic because Trump supporters are the "Republicans in name only," aka RINOs since they put Trump above the party.

Lockwood says he's still considering what action to take to get rid of Trump, but he won't stay on the sidelines as the 2020 election continues to boil. He has a vision of the Republican Party that doesn't have its current white demographics.

"Ideally, I'd like to see the Republican Party become the party of the young people and minorities," he says about making individual rights attractive to new voters and activists.

He adds that he thinks that people will begin to leave the Republican Party's "big tent," so it's possible change could come. And he wants to work for that change.

## Not Bending to Trump

A week after the killing of George Floyd, Republican state Rep. Cheri Helt of Bend went to Facebook to post that Trump had failed the test of presidential leadership.

"When America was confronted with the global pandemic, the President's response was bad — but his rhetoric and actions since the killing of George Floyd are even worse," she wrote on the June 4 post. "In November, America needs to elect a new President who can lead our nation in a more positive direction. Given what's at stake I feel I must speak out against the President who happens to share my Party registration but does not share my moral compass values."

The post's comments illustrated just how divided Republicans are over Trump.

Some said Helt exhibited qualities of Oregon's Republican governors — Tom McCall, Mark Hatfield and Victor Atiyeh. Others used some of Trump's "greatest hits" of insults: calling her a snowflake, accusing her of pandering to the left and describing her as a "rhino."

Helt wasn't breaking any news about her opposition to Trump — she's been open about not voting for him in 2016



and even spoke out against him on the floor of the Oregon House. Helt tells *EW* that she criticized Trump about his environmental policies “because climate change is real.”

Helt says that she grew up as a young Republican (despite having a short spell as a Democrat) and because she owns two restaurants in Bend, she says she has the party’s fiscal values. “I want to make sure our businesses can operate,” she says.

In 2016, Deschutes County was Trump country; he won 46 percent of the vote (three more points than Clinton). But Helt spoke out about the party’s leader on Facebook in an election year anyway.

“I’m speaking out with my voice,” she says. “I’m providing the leadership I want to see in my community and for my community.”

She says when the U.S. enters a crisis, it almost always unites its people — but the White House hasn’t been encouraging and is instead using politics to divide during a pandemic. “We’ve got to make sure that we leave this crisis better than we went into it,” she says. “And we need a president who can do that.”

Helt says the U.S. needs someone to lead with compassion and heart — and if a leader doesn’t exhibit those qualities she can’t support them. But in the meantime, she says she’ll work on the local and state level so her community can get the leadership it needs.

## Leaving Trump in 2016

Kerry Tymchuk has a long history with the Republican Party. His résumé includes working for former Sen. Gordon Smith and for former Sens. Bob and Elizabeth Dole, as well as co-authoring a book with the Doles (plus he notes that he knew the Dole’s dog, Leader, well).

Tymchuk says he left the Republican Party just days after Trump visited Eugene in 2016. It was the day Trump had enough delegates to get the party’s presidential nomination in 2016. He left the party that he had a long history with, he says, because it nominated a person who lacked qualities like dignity, decency and civility.

Tymchuk says he felt it was his duty to leave the Republican Party. “Any party that would nominate him as president, I didn’t want to be a member of,” he adds.

He says people close to him weren’t surprised about his leaving the party since he was vocally critical of Trump during the primaries — and donated to former Ohio Gov. John Kasich. And to this day, Tymchuk says he hasn’t regretted his decision to leave.

In 2016, he went on to support Hillary Clinton and says she would’ve been a great president. During his time in Washington, D.C., he says he had seen Clinton at work and was impressed with her ability to lead.

Four years later, Tymchuk says, he supported Biden immediately when the former vice president ran for the nomination. According to individual contribution data from the Federal Election Commission, Tymchuk has donated more than \$6,600 to Biden since April 25, 2019, the day Biden entered the race.

“Especially when I was with Sen. Bob Dole, I saw Biden every day for six years. I saw his work ethic,” he says. “I saw those qualities in him — the decency, the civility, the dedication to public service and reaching across the aisle.”

Despite Tymchuk’s résumé with the Republican Party, the time that he spent working with Bob Dole and Elizabeth Dole (and even supporting an exploratory presidential committee in 2000 for Elizabeth) in Washington or alongside former Sen. Gordon Smith, he doesn’t think he’ll ever return.

“I can’t imagine going back in the near future given the enablement that has gone on,” he says. “They turned themselves over. The Republican Party became the Trump Party.”

Tymchuk says in his years of working in politics and public service, the most important qualities he’s observed in leaders were decency, civility, an ability to reach across the aisle and not see the other party as enemies.

“You can question their stances but not their beliefs and motives. And the ability to understand that we’re one country,” he says. “In my view, that’s how we succeed.”

## Getting the Orange out of the Red

Assuming that Trump was going to lose the 2016 election, Kasich had planned to have an event after the 2016 election that would have essentially rebooted the Republican Party. Of course, that’s not what happened, but Kasich went on to be a critic of Trump and is on the speaker list for the Democratic Party’s virtual National Convention.

But the Republican Party had been broken before Trump came along because the problem is the two-party system, says Rich Vial, who left the party to run as a nonpartisan for secretary of state in 2020.

“I think Trump got elected because the two-party system was busted, and he made the case that he wasn’t an insider,” he says. “Once he got in, he used the party to his advantage.”

Vial says a political party reinventing itself won’t make a difference. The Republican Party has reinvented itself countless times — from Barry Goldwater to Reagan.

He says the problem is with the two-party system and George Washington’s concerns have come true: parties mobilize generals, not policymakers.

“I believe George Washington had it correct that if we allowed parties to be a formal part of the system, it’ll destroy our abilities to lead the democratic republic,” Vial says.

The result of growing partisan party politics, he adds, is the emergence of fringe candidates on general election ballots — like Jo Rae Perkins, Art Robinson and Trump himself — because only a fraction of voters participate in primary elections.

Vial says the solution is to have open primary elections, ranked choice voting and get rid of caucusing (at least at the state level).

Vial isn’t alone in his views on the two-party system. According to July 2020 voter registration data, Oregon has 932,826 unaffiliated voters, a number that exceeds registered Republicans and is almost as many registered Democrats.

However, Tymchuk says the two-party system is better than the multi-party system often found in parliamentary systems, but the issue for him is that there are times when the country is more important than the party — and voters and leaders failed to realize that in 2016.

The U.S.’s political system works best when there are two “healthy” parties that lean left and right, he says, because progress happens in the middle, Tymchuk adds.

And it’s that middle spot that Lockwood says is a promising place for Oregon to innovate politically. He says he’s not satisfied with either party — and when he talked with *EW* he didn’t say whether he’d support Biden. Good governance needs a healthy two-party system because it creates a competition of ideas, he adds.

Lockwood says he wants to see a conservative party return to the roots of fiscal conservatism, an ideology based on spending money wisely that benefits taxpayers.

He says Oregon is a place where another party could emerge — something like a centric party — at the state leadership level.

After Nov. 3, Oregon and the rest of the U.S. will move forward knowing where it goes next with the Republican Party and its next evolution — and whether Trump will be a part of it — or if another party is needed to make conservatism great again. ■



Illustration by Chelsea Lovejoy



Life has been feeling pretty bland lately, so what better way to spice things up than with some local mariachi music? On Friday the nine students of the **Mariachi del Shedd** music camp will be performing at the grand opening of the 5th Street Public Market StrEATery. These middle and high school musicians have spent the last two weeks learning typical mariachi forms such as the bolero, canción, ranchero and more. The group features instruments such as guitar, trumpet, violin and voice, and students had the opportunity to try out the fretless bass-line *guitarrón* and high-pitched *vihuela* during the camp. The Shedd Music School had been remodeled right when Oregon entered Phase 2 of reopening, so students were easily able to maintain a six-foot distance from one another in rehearsals. The performance will be in an outdoor area with social distance rules enforced and masks required. Fernell López led the two-week summer camp, and he will continue with a mariachi class during the school year.

See and hear the students of Mariachi del Shedd at 4 pm Friday, Aug. 14, at 5th Street Public Market's StrEATery. Free. — *Joanna Mann*

## GENERAL

**LISTINGS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

### ACTIVIST ALERT

Sunday, Aug. 16: Origins of Black Nationalism (lecture by Kokayi Nosakhere), 4pm, Alton Baker Park, 100 Day Island Rd.

Thursday, Aug. 20: Activists and Tribal Sovereignty Webinar, 3-5pm. More info and RSVP at CLDC.org.

### ONLINE MEETINGS FOR 12-STEP PROGRAMS

Al-Anon Anonymous meetings can be found at AlaNonLaneor.us.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings can be found at EviAaaweb.org.

Co-Dependents Anonymous meetings can be found at Coda.org.

Debtors Anonymous meetings can be found at OregonDebtorsAnonymous.org

Emotions Anonymous meetings can be found at EmotionsAnonymous.org.

Marijuana Anonymous meetings can be found at Marijuana-Anonymous.org.

Narcotics Anonymous meetings can be found at na.org.

Overeaters Anonymous meetings can be found at oa.org.

Refuge Recovery meetings can be found at RefugeRecovery.org.

### HEALTH

Zoom classes at YMCA.org.

Zoom workout classes at CrossFit. Email Contact@CrossFitIntensify.com for more info.

Workout classes at IAmForeverStrong.com.

Workout classes at Evolve Fitness Studios. More info at EvolveFitnessStudios Facebook page.

Yoga classes at EugeneYoga.us; WildLightYogaCenter.com; EugeneMudra.com; HotYogaEugeneBalanced.com; YogaEugene.com.

### ONLINE ENTERTAINMENT

Oregon State Parks, Nature: Live in Your Family Room, OregonStateParks.org.

OMSI Live stream events. Short notice on these events. More info at OMSI Facebook page.

"Springfield Public Library - Where Minds Grow," Springfield Public Library YouTube channel.

### ONLINE EXHIBITS

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, JSMA.Uoregon.edu. Maude Kerns Art Center, MkCenter.org.

### NON-ONLINE EXHIBITS

Emerald Art Center, 500 Main St, Springfield. More info at EmeraldArtCenter.org.

Karin Clarke Gallery, Eugene Biennial, Celebrating Exceptional Art in Our Region (thru Aug. 29).

Street Art -- Oaxaca, Mexico, through Sept. 1, PhotoZone Gallery, 22 W. 7th Ave.

**ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES**  
Classes and programs online w/ Museum of Natural & Cultural History (UO), MNCH.Uoregon.edu.

Opportunities at Extension. OregonState.edu. Oregon State University Extension Service.

### ONLINE PERFORMANCE

FANS on Relix.com. Some streams FREE, others cost. More info at Relix.com.

The Scent of Tulips (thru Aug. 16), MinorityVoices-Theatre.org or Very Little Theatre Facebook page.

### ONLINE SPIRITUAL

Guided Lamrim Retreat (Aug. 15-20), 8am-8:30pm. More info and RSVP at MeditateInEugene.org. \$10-25.

Blue Cliff Zen Ctr, via Zoom. Meetings can be found at BlueCliffZen.org.

## THURSDAY

AUGUST 13

### HEALTH

NAMI Support Zoom Group at NAMILane.org, 7pm. RSVP at NAMILane.org.

### LIVE MUSIC

Rob Tobias & Brook Adams, 7pm, beergarden.

Hank Shreve & Skip Jones, 6pm, Mac's Nightclub & Restaurant.

### ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Calming Yoga via Zoom, noon-1pm. RSVP at Vista-Psych.com.

Spread Peace, online support group, noon. RSVP at BethGreen.as.me.

Stay at Home Lecture Series w/ OSU College of Forestry, 3pm, Oregon-State.edu.

### ONLINE PERFORMANCE

Eugene Symphony Orchestra Quirky Thursdays, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

### ON THE AIR

"The Point," 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

"Arts Journal," 9pm, Comcast channel 29.

Thursday Night Jazz, 10pm, KLCC, 89.7 FM

## FRIDAY

AUGUST 14

### LIVE MUSIC

Mariachi del Shedd, 4pm, 5th Street Public Market.

Daddy Rabbit, 6:30pm, Mac's Restaurant & Nightclub.

### ONLINE FAMILY GATHERINGS

Oregon Zoo Live, activities developed by an award winning team aimed at K-5, 9:30am, OregonZoo.org.

Family Storytime w/ Eugene Public Library, 11am, Eugene Public Library Facebook page.

### ONLINE FOR TEENS

Teen D&D w/ Eugene Public Library, 2-4pm. Call 541-682-5450 for Zoom link.

### ONLINE SPIRITUAL

Healing w/ Spiritual Light (Medicine for Ourselves, Our Community & Our World), 7pm. Zoom info at info@leiahart.com.

### ONLINE PERFORMANCE

Eugene Symphony Orchestra Epic Fridays, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

"Virtual Cinema" w/ Broadway Metro. More info at BroadwayMetro.com.

## SATURDAY

AUGUST 15

### ART/CRAFT

Eugene Darkroom Group Lumen Printing Workshop, 1-4pm, Maude Kerns Art Ctr, 1910 E. 15th Ave. \$25-40.

### FARMERS MARKETS

Lane County Farmers Market, 9am-3pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St.

Spencer Creek Growers Market, 10am-2pm, Spencer Creek Grange, 86013 Lorane Hwy.

### GATHERINGS

Elkton Education Community Ctr. August Events, 9am-3pm, 15850 State Highway 38, Elkton.

### MARKETS

Eugene Saturday Market, 10am-5pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St.

Veneta Pop-Up Retail District, 10am-2pm. More info at Veneta Pop-Up District Facebook page.

### ONLINE DANCE

heART in Motion, 6-7pm, InstaBallet.org.

### LIVE MUSIC

Geoffrey Mays, 6pm, Territorial Vineyards.

The Joanne Broh Band, 6:30pm, Mac's Restaurant & Night Club.

### ON THE AIR

The Dr. Yeti Show, 10pm-midnight, KOCF, 92.7 FM or streamed at KOCF.org.

The Institute of Spectra-Sonic Sound, 10pm-midnight, KEPW, 97.3 FM.

### OUTDOORS/RECREATION

Scandia Run, 8am, Lyle Day Park, Junction City. RSVP at ElectricEdgeRacing.com.

## SUNDAY

AUGUST 16

### FARMERS MARKETS

Dexter Lake Farmers Market, noon-4pm, Rolling Rock Park, Lowell.

### HEALTH

Occupy Medical, noon-4pm, 1717 Centennial Blvd, Springfield.

### MARKETS

Whiteaker Community Market, 11am-4pm, Scobert Park, 4th Ave. & Blair Blvd.

### ONLINE SPIRITUAL

Eugene Insight Meditation Community via Zoom, 6:30pm. More info at EugeneInsight.com.

## MONDAY

AUGUST 17

### HEALTH

Connection Peer Support Group at NAMILane.org. RSVP at NAMILane.org.

### ONLINE GATHERINGS

Granny Rocks, 6:30pm. RSVP at BethGreen.as.me.

### ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Musical Mondays (music education videos), 10am, Eugene Symphony Orchestra Facebook page.

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. FREE-\$5.

## TUESDAY

AUGUST 18

### FOOD/DRINK

Tuesday Farmers Market, 10am-3pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St.

### LECTURES/CLASSES

New Zone Art Gallery Figure Drawing sessions, 6-9pm, New Zone Art Gallery, 22 W. 7th Ave.

### ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. FREE-\$5.

Into the Deep: A D&D inspired Summer Camp, 3-5pm, WordCrafters.org. \$165-185.

### ONLINE PERFORMANCE

NW10: Oh, Boise!, 12th Annual Northwest Festival of 10-minute plays (*Chicken Burger with a side of Awkward* by Deborah Chava Singer & *The Appointment* by Jennifer Chaney) 6pm, via Zoom w/ Oregon Contemporary Theatre. More info at OCTheatre.org.

### ONLINE RECREATION

Tuesday's w/ Ty (virtual trivia), 6pm, Hult Ctr. Facebook page.

Tuesday Night Trivia w/ Nic, 7:30pm, Rennie's Landing, 1214 Kincaid St.

## WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 19

### GATHERINGS

New Zone Art Gallery Drum Circle, 6pm, New Zone Art Gallery, 22 W. 7th Ave.

### HEALTH

Connection Peer Support Group at NAMILane.org, 7pm. RSVP at NAMILane.org.

### LIVE MUSIC

Jazz & Variety, 6pm, Mac's Restaurant & Night Club.

Hip Billys, 7pm, The Public House.

### MARKETS

Veneta Pop-Up Retail District, 5-8pm. More info at Veneta Pop-Up District Facebook page.

### ONLINE FAMILY & KIDS

Little Notes Music Time, 9:30am, Suzuki Music School Facebook page.

Japanese Music for Kids, 1pm, Eugene Public Library Facebook page.

### ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. FREE-\$5.

### ONLINE GATHERINGS

Family Wednesdays w/ Eugene Symphony Orchestra, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

Granny Rocks, 6:30pm. RSVP at BethGreen.as.me.

## THURSDAY

AUGUST 20

### HEALTH

NAMI Support Zoom Group at NAMILane.org, 7pm. RSVP at NAMILane.org.

### LIVE MUSIC

Hank Shreve & Skip Jones, 6pm, Mac's Restaurant & Night Club.

Elroy Jordin, 7pm, beergarden.

Spire Duo Outdoor Concert, 7pm, Martin Street. FREE-\$20

### ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Calming Yoga via Zoom, noon-1pm. RSVP at Vista-Psych.com.

Eugene Darkroom Group Darkroom Orientation, noon-1pm, Maude Kerns Art Center, 1910 E. 15th Ave. More info and RSVP at EugDarkRoom.org.

Spread Peace, online support group, noon. RSVP at BethGreen.as.me.

Stay at Home Lecture Series w/ OSU College of Forestry, 3pm, Oregon-State.edu.

### ONLINE PERFORMANCE

Eugene Symphony Orchestra Quirky Thursdays, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

### ONLINE LITERARY ARTS

SPL Virtual Book Club - *The Darwin Affair*, 7pm. More info at Springfield Public Library Facebook page.

### ON THE AIR

"The Point," 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

"Arts Journal," 9pm, Comcast channel 29.

Thursday Night Jazz, 10pm, KLCC, 89.7 FM

## ATTENTION

Jordan Schnitzer, in partnership with the family's museums of art at the University of Oregon, Washington State and Portland State, is establishing a \$150,000 Black Lives Matter Artist Grant Program. Each museum will award \$2,500 to 20 artists from Oregon (excluding artists from the tri-county area of Portland and Columbia County) responding to the ongoing Black Lives Matter movement. More information is at JMSA.UOoregon.edu.

Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC) seeks applicants for its Board of Directors who can meet 10 times a year for general board meetings, participate in at least one sub-committee and bring lived experience as well as expertise for the health of our watershed and the diverse communities that depend on it. If you are interested and would like to learn more about board service with LTWC, email a letter of interest to info@longtom.org (or mail to 11 E. 27th Ave., Eugene, 97405) with your name, why you're interested in being on the Long Tom Board of Directors and a short bio about yourself. To be considered for our upcoming slate that will be voted on by the council membership, please send in your interest letters no later than September 1st. Bylaws and the most recent annual report can be found at LongTom.org). More info also is at 541-654-8965.





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# Check the Tape!

NEW EUGENE CASSETTE LABEL RELEASES ACOUSTIC MATERIAL FROM MIDWEST POP-PUNK FRONT MAN

By Will Kennedy

Some may know Henry Weintraub as the director of local DIY horror films such as *Melvin*, *Mindslime* and *Killing Me*, but these days, he's turned his creative energy toward a new project: a cassette-only pop punk record label called Memorable but Not Honorable.

In July, Weintraub's imprint released *Alone in the Basement*, solo acoustic material from the front man of the Midwest horror movie-influenced punk band Horror Section. He goes simply by Teflon Dave.

Dave met Weintraub online, and they quickly bonded over a shared interest in punk music and horror movies. "After messaging back and forth he hit me up with an idea he had for a cassette label," Dave tells me by email.

Weintraub proposed releasing some acoustic renditions of Horror Section music. "I had already done some acoustic solo renditions of Horror Section songs I was pretty happy with," Dave says, "so I knew those would work."

As an added challenge, Dave dug up some older songs from previous bands, wrote a new one, and included a cover.

"It's definitely out of my comfort zone, but I'm happy with the outcome," he says.

Weintraub grew up loving both physical media and



pop-punk, bubblegum rock and Ramones-core music. He'd thought of running a record label for quite some time, but producing vinyl is cost prohibitive. With extra time on his hands during the pandemic, he turned to cassettes.

"You can do small runs and it's cheap," Weintraub tells me over the phone. "You can do 25 tapes, you can do 50 tapes, and it's not a lot of money. It's a couple bucks a tape. It's kind of exciting." Weintraub's tapes retail for \$8 on average, and he splits the profits with the artist.

"Physical media has always been a very important thing to me. It's always felt so much more connected.

You're just sort of like, in it," Weintraub says.

"Cassettes have always had that same vibe to me," he continues. "For some reason, if I don't have a physical copy of something, I don't feel like I can listen to it. Digital feels like it could go away at any time."

In the '80s and '90s, the kind of pop punk sound that Weintraub plans to release on his label was the domain of record labels like Lookout Records, out of the Bay Area. These days, Weintraub says that sound is undergoing a resurgence, particularly in the Midwest,

"These bands aren't huge," he admits, but they do have loyal followers, and Weintraub calls the scene "as good as it's ever been, if not better."

For those who turn to Spotify for their music, it may come as a surprise that, a little like vinyl LPs, cassettes are far from dead. U.S. tape sales were up 23 percent in 2018, according to Nielsen Music, the company that compiles data for the Billboard Charts.

In the U.K., tape sales grew 112 percent in the first half of 2019. Although that's only about 36,000 units, all sales growth in physical media is notable.

What's fueling the micro boom is affordability, accessibility and a desire among music fans to connect through something tangible and concrete. Teflon Dave's release sold out its initial run of 50 cassettes in 90 minutes.

In addition to the Teflon Dave project, Weintraub's label will put out *We Hate Led Zeppelin* on Aug. 14. It's a tribute to Screeching Weasel, a popular and highly influential American punk band from the '80s and '90s.

Including Teflon Dave and the Screeching Weasel tribute, Weintraub has nine projects planned for his label. In September, he's scheduled to put out a solo album from Billy Putz from the Indiana pop punk band The Putz. He's open to label submissions. ■

To contact Henry Weintraub for updates on new releases, or to buy a cassette, search *Memorable but Not Honorable* on Facebook or Bandcamp.

# Wind Water Wing

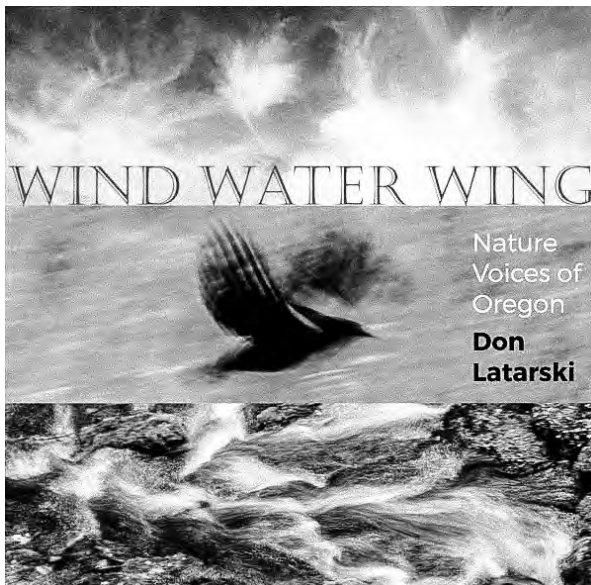
ON HIS NEW ALBUM, EUGENE'S DON LATARSKI EMBRACES NATURE WITH BIRD CALLS AND 'WATER GUITARS'

By Joanna Mann

While many of us have been bingeing Netflix shows and catching up on our sleep during the pandemic, Don Latarski has been using musical instruments he's invented and getting up at the crack of dawn to record bird sounds. He recently released an album called *Wind Water Wing: Nature Voices of Oregon* that combines these bird and other sounds of nature with the music of his wind and water guitars.

"I make people aware of the fact that this album is not a scientific project, but an art project," Latarski says. "It's just so soothing and relaxing to listen to, and it's like nothing people have heard before."

Latarski invented his water guitar three years ago when he was tromping through a creek and found a stick wedged in the bank. It was moving back and forth just like a string would, and he wanted to see if he could make music by putting actual guitar strings in the water. The first instrument he used was one he found in a dumpster behind McKenzie River Music. He constructed a different neck for the guitar and placed it into the water. Sure enough, music began to flow out of it.



As for the wind guitar, Latarski tunes a regular guitar however he pleases and holds it up to the wind in a moving vehicle. As the wind blows across the strings, melodies pour out at random.

There are 15 tracks on *Wind Water Wing*, and each

song is named after the bird it features. Latarski has been working on this project for a year, and he says the process has not been easy.

"People try to go and photograph birds, and that in itself has its own challenges to it. But that's nothing compared to trying to record the audio of a bird," he says. "There's so much noise pollution in the world; it's almost impossible. We just become so used to hearing it we block it out."

Some of the bird sounds in the album are made by ravens, chickadees, quail and owls, to name a few. Their songs are accompanied by the trickling of running water, followed by the gradual hum of wind and water guitars.

Latarski says the album is best listened to as ambient sound.

He uses software that allows him to clean up much of the background noise the microphone picks up. He describes his headphones as an "audio microscope."

Latarski worked in the music department at the University of Oregon for 33 years and was the head of guitar studies. He retired in 2017 and has kept busy with various projects since then.

"The pandemic has kind of been good for me, only in the sense that I've got more time," Latarski says. "I can't sit around. That's just my natural way to be."

This is the first album of bird sounds Latarski has released. He does a lot of hiking and photography, and his background as a musician got him interested in listening to the sounds of birds and trying to identify them.

"Being around birds that are making beautiful sounds is a very pleasant experience," Latarski says. "It seems to me that we all need a break these days." ■

*Wind Water Wing* is streaming on Spotify, Pandora, Apple Music and YouTube. CDs are also available for purchase for \$20 at [GuitarOutside.com](http://GuitarOutside.com).



# A Fantastic Old Guard

ENJOY THE IMMORTAL PLEASURE OF WATCHING CHARLIZE THERON MIX IT UP ON SCREEN

By Molly Templeton

Recently, *The New York Times* ran an entire article about how enjoyable it is to watch Charlize Theron fight. Frankly, it wasn't long enough. Given how much I like to watch Theron punch people, I'd like to read several thousand more words on the subject.

Instead, I rewatched Gina Prince-Bythewood's *The Old Guard* (Netflix), in which Theron plays an immortal warrior who, with a small team of other immortals, tries to do some good in the world by taking out bad guys. She has centuries of experience, but the villains have changed over the years. Once, she fought armies. Now, the enemy is an amoral pharmaceutical CEO who looks at Andy (Theron) and her team and sees deathless lab rats. (The movie is based on a comic by Greg Rucka, who also wrote the screenplay.)

But let's not get distracted by the plot, which does what it needs to do in satisfying and even subtle ways. The draw here is twofold: One, yes, is watching Theron fight, watching her climb the walls of a tiny airplane or flip men over her shoulders. The other is the lived-in found-family feel of Andy's team. The youngest, Booker (Matthias Schoenaerts), puts whiskey in his tea and mourns the loss of his sons, a mere 200 years



ago. Joe (Marwan Kenzari) and Nicky (Luca Marinelli) found each other in the Crusades, when they fought on opposite sides; they've been a couple ever since they stopped fighting.

Deftly, lovingly, Rucka's screenplay establishes how much history these four have: They tease and praise each other, switching effortlessly between languages, fighting like an eight-armed single being. Prince-Bythewood can suggest entire lifetimes with close-ups of Theron's face, where all her years of love, exhaustion, trust and gratitude show plainly in every expression. When a new immortal appears, Andy's response is mixed. She wants to bring young, scared Nile (KiKi Layne) into the fold. But she knows what a burden immortality is.

This weight — the weight of centuries — fuels *The Old Guard*. In Andy and Booker, the years feel real, and heavy, and hard. And lonely. They've lost people; half their stories are about lost family, whether blood or chosen. But they can still be surprised. When Nile's anger and fear boil up and she throws herself into a fight with Andy, Theron's face is stoic, tired — until it's not. Until it lights up with surprise, with delight at what this new member of her family is already capable of.

Responsibility and love exist here in careful balance. Joe and Nicky's love balances Booker's overwhelming grief; Andy's sense of purpose, which only grows stronger throughout the film, is a counterweight to the wry practicality with which she approaches immortality. She has no answers for Nile's most basic questions: there is no "why." There's only "what": What will you do with your time? Does it matter if you don't know how much of it there is?

*The Old Guard* can be a little on the nose sometimes, especially in its music choices. When it finally gets around to a sequence of the whole gang fighting together, I desperately wished for more of that; the choreography is stellar character work. Joe and Nicky need more story (if only this were a series, and we could have whole episodes of them!). But there's so much more to like than to correct. Action films often veer from heroics to hate, with little room for nuance and little time for forgiveness. *The Old Guard* makes that space. Sure, when you're immortal, you have more time to learn from your mistakes. But it's a thing all of us need the time and the grace to do. ■

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**HAS MARIJUANA STOPPED BEING FUN?** Contact the Out Of The Fog meeting of Marijuana Anonymous - (541) 556-0877.

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**FOUND CHAINSAW.** Final claim date 8/29/2020. Write letter to Billy Dahmen, 671 Startouch Drive, Eugene, OR 97405. Or email at [surveydahmen@gmail.com](mailto:surveydahmen@gmail.com). No drop by visitors. Provide contact information (name, phone, address) plus make, model and bar size of chainsaw to claim. Date of loss would also be helpful if more than one person claims it

#### Pets

**GREENHILL HUMANE SOCIETY** Everybody Deserves a Good Home. Open 7 days a week from 11am-6pm . 88530 Green Hill Rd 541-689-1503 [green-hill.org](http://green-hill.org) See our Pet of the Week!

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### LEGAL NOTICES

#### Legal Notices

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY** Probate Department In the Matter of the Estate of : JOYCE BARBARA McKINNON, Deceased. Case No. 20PB05341 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS GIVEN that Marlene V. Cainer has been appointed personal representative of this estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with voucher attached, to the personal representative c/o Robert Cole Tozer, Attorney at Law, 975 Oak St., Suite 615, Eugene, OR 97401, (541) 345-0795, within four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the personal representative's attorney, Robert Cole Tozer. DATED and first published August 13th, 2020. Personal Representative /s/ Marlene C. Cainer

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** Claims against the Estate of Erik Woodley Rasmussen, Deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 20PB04985, are required to be presented to the Personal Representative, Christian P. Rasmussen, at 440 East Broadway, Suite 300, Eugene, Oregon 97401, within four (4) months from 08/06/20, the date of first publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. GAYDOS, CHURNSIDE & BALTHROP, P.C., Attorneys for Personal Representative

## Jonesin' Crossword

BY MATT JONES

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### "Food for Thought"

the first Jonesin' puzzle ever. (#1, May 2001)

#### Across

1 Band that's the theme of this puzzle  
6 "Heroz4hire" rapper --- the Damaja  
10 Slasher flick props  
14 "... quack quack there, --- quack ..."  
15 Actor Arkin  
16 "99 Luftballons" singer  
17 Impulsive, courageous person, so they say  
18 Hollywood cross street  
19 He was a real Dick on "NewsRadio"  
20 1-Across guitarist and vocalist  
23 Summer month, for short  
24 Speaks like a heavy smoker  
26 Shop class tool  
29 Cry convulsively  
31 Letters on a Cardinals hat  
32 "Bali \_\_\_" ("South Pacific" song)

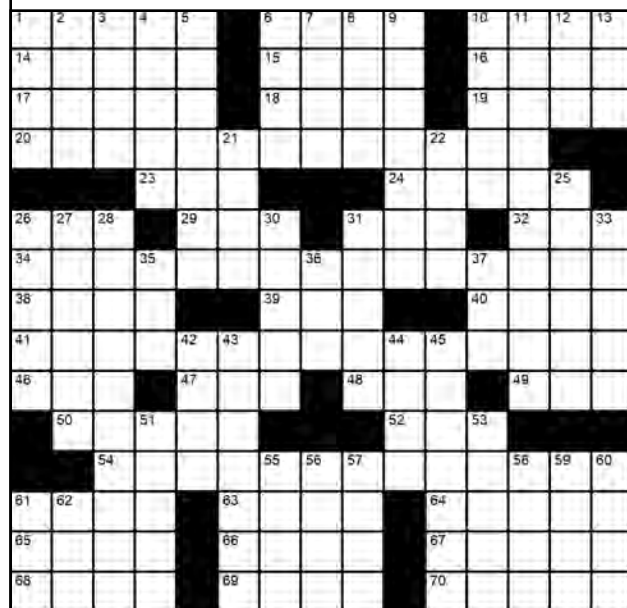
34 1-Across and The Dude of Life album released in 1994  
38 "Hell's Half \_\_\_" (1954 movie)  
39 Velvet Underground vocalist Reed  
40 Singers lower than soprani  
41 1-Across predecessors and mentors  
46 Jazz band's song list  
47 They taketh away on Apr. 15  
48 \_\_\_ Fighters (Dave Grohl band)  
49 Org. that gives out 9-digit IDs  
50 Sends to hell  
52 Sound from a lamb  
54 1-Across keyboardist who started as a fan  
61 Cheat, in a way  
63 Cleopatra's river  
64 "Jeremy" singer Vedder

65 Subject of "Weird" Al Yankovic's "The White [31-Down]"  
66 The last word in sermons?  
67 "\_\_\_ White Swan" (T. Rex song)  
68 They're separated on some old sitcoms  
69 Elevator, to Elvis Costello  
70 European compilation album for 1-Across

#### Down

1 \_\_\_ Farm (bygone clothing line)  
2 Mister, in Munich  
3 Powerful and pleasing, to a Rasta  
4 "Later"  
5 Is of practical value  
6 Coffeehouse quaff  
7 Yale students, familiarly  
8 Blow a gasket  
9 Dig up

10 "Henry and June" diarist Nin  
11 They adore strange things  
12 Jim Morrison song, with "The"  
13 "\_\_\_ Anything" (John Cusack movie)  
21 Gps. like CARE and Amnesty International  
22 Word after bake or garage  
25 Ubiquitous December mall guys  
26 Sings like Kurt Elling  
27 Like an angry cat's back  
28 Spied via the telephone  
30 Neckwear for Frankenstein's monster?  
31 Nondescript category  
33 "\_\_\_ bad, bad thing"  
35 1000 K  
36 Friend's opposite  
37 "Spy vs. Spy" magazine  
42 Decoder's wear?  
43 "Your \_\_\_" (Morrissey album)  
44 Man, in Mantua  
45 Cars given while yours is in the shop, e.g.  
51 Sandwich spreads  
53 "We love to fly \_\_\_ shows" (Delta slogan)  
55 "Rent" character  
56 F or G, on sheet music  
57 It's worth next to nothing  
58 Old Icelandic saga  
59 "What \_\_\_ Beneath"  
60 Remini of "The King of Queens"  
61 Corn remnants  
62 Raw metal source



# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

**ARIES** (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Motivational speaker Les Brown says his mission in life is to help people become uncomfortable with their mediocrity. That same mission is suitable for many of you Rams, as well. And I suspect you'll be able to generate interesting fun and good mischief if you perform it in the coming weeks. Here's a tip on how to make sure you do it well: Don't use shame or derision as you motivate people to be uncomfortable with their mediocrity. A better approach is to be a shining example that inspires them to be as bright as you are.

**TAURUS** (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Taurus musician and visual artist Brian Eno has a practical, down-to-earth attitude about making beautiful things, which he has done in abundance. He says that his goal is not to generate wonderful creations nonstop — that's not possible — but rather to always be primed to do his best when inspiration strikes. In other words, it's crucial to tirelessly hone his craft, to make sure his skills are constantly at peak capacity. I hope you've been approaching your own labors of love with that in mind, Taurus. If you have, you're due for creative breakthroughs in the coming weeks. The diligent efforts you've invested in cultivating your talents are about to pay off. If, on the other hand, you've been a bit lazy about detail-oriented discipline, correct that problem now. There's still time to get yourself in top shape.

**GEMINI** (MAY 21-JUNE 20): In his 2010 album *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, Gemini musician Kanye West confesses the decadent and hedonist visions that fascinate and obsess him. Personally, I'm not entertained by the particular excesses he claims to indulge in; they're generic and unoriginal and boring. But I bet that the beautiful dark twisted fantasies simmering in your imagination, Gemini, are more unique and intriguing. In accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to spend quality time in the coming weeks diving in and exploring those visions in glorious detail. Get to know them better. Embellish them. Meditate on the feelings they invoke and the possibility that they have deeper spiritual meanings. (P.S. But don't act them out, at least not now.)

**CANCER** (JUNE 21-JULY 22): "Make all your decisions based on how hilarious it would be if you did it," advises Cancerian actor Aubrey Plaza. I wish it were that simple. How much more fun we might all have if the quest for amusement and laughter were among our main motivating principles. But no, I don't recommend that you always determine your course of action by what moves will generate the most entertainment and mirth. Having said that, though, I do suspect the next few weeks may in fact be a good time to experiment with using Plaza's formula.

**LEO** (JULY 23-AUG. 22): In the dictionary, the first definition of "magic" is "the art of producing illusions as entertainment by the use of sleight of hand and deceptive devices." A far more interesting definition, which is my slight adjustment of an idea by occultist Aleister Crowley, doesn't appear in most dictionaries. Here it is: "Magic is the science and art of causing practical changes to occur in accordance with your will — under the rigorous guidance of love." According to my analysis of the astrological omens, the latter definition could and should be your specialty during the next four weeks.

**VIRGO** (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): "The soul, like the moon, is new, and always new again," wrote 14th-century mystic poet Lallewari. I will amend her poetic formulation, however. The fact is that the soul, unlike the moon, is always new in different ways; it doesn't have a predictable pattern of changing as the moon does. That's what makes the soul so mysterious and uncanny. No matter how devotedly we revere the soul, no matter how tenderly we study the soul, it's always beyond our grasp. It's forever leading us into unknown realms that teem with new challenges and delights. I invite you to honor and celebrate these truths in the coming weeks, Virgo. It's time to exult in the shiny dark riddles of your soul.

**LIBRA** (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): "I have one talent, and that is the capacity to be tremendously surprised," writes Libran author Diane Ackerman. I advise you to foster that talent, too, in the weeks ahead. If you're feeling brave, go even further. Make yourself as curious as possible. Deepen your aptitude for amazements and epiphanies. Cultivate an appreciation for revelations and blessings that arrive from outside your expectations. To the degree that you do these things, the wonderments that come your way will tend to be enlivening and catalytic; unpredictability will be fun and educational.

**SCORPIO** (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Author and theologian Frederick Buechner writes, "If we are to love our neighbors, before doing anything else we must see our neighbors. With our imagination as well as our eyes, we must see not just their faces but also the life behind and within their faces." The coming weeks will be prime time for you to heed Buechner's advice, Scorpio. You're in a phase when you'll have extra power to understand and empathize with others. Taking full advantage of that potential will serve your selfish aims in profound ways, some of which you can't imagine yet.

**SAGITTARIUS** (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): "Refine your rapture," advised occultist Aleister Crowley. Now is an excellent time to take that advice. How might you go about doing it? Well, you could have a long conversation with your deep psyche — and see if you can plumb hidden secrets about what gives it sublime pleasure. You could seek out new ways to experience euphoria and enchantment — with an emphasis on ways that also make you smarter and healthier. You might also take inventory of your current repertoire of bliss-inducing strategies — and cultivate an enhanced capacity to get the most out of them.

**CAPRICORN** (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Are you ready to make the transition from slow, deep, subtle and dark to fast, high, splashy and bright? Are you interested in shifting your focus from behind-the-scenes to right up front and totally out in the open? Would it be fun and meaningful for you to leave behind the stealthy, smoldering mysteries and turn your attention to the sweet, blazing truths? All these changes can be yours — and more. To get the action started, jump up toward the sky three times, clicking your heels together during each mid-leap.

**AQUARIUS** (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Greenland is a mostly autonomous territory within the nation of Denmark. In 2019, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that his government was interested in buying the massive island, describing it as "a large real estate deal" that would add considerable strategic value to his country. A satirical story in *The New Yorker* subsequently claimed that Denmark responded with a counter-offer, saying it wasn't interested in the deal, but "would be interested in purchasing the United States in its entirety, with the exception of its government." I offer this as an example for you to be inspired by. The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to flip the script, turn the tables, reverse the roles, transpose the narrative and switch the rules of the game.

**PISCES** (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Author Doris Lessing told us, "It is our stories that will recreate us." Whenever we're hurt or confused or demoralized, she suggested, we need to call on the imagination to conjure up a new tale for ourselves. "It is the storyteller, the dream-maker, the myth-maker, that is our phoenix," she believed. The fresh narratives we choose to reinvent ourselves may emerge from our own dreams, meditations, or fantasies. Or they might flow our way from a beloved movie or song or book. I suspect you're ready for this quest, Pisces. Create a new saga for yourself.

*Homework: What is a blessing you can realistically believe life might bestow on you in the coming months? Testify at FreeWillAstrology.com.*

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**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** In the Matter of the Estate of MILDRED JOANN CARVER, Deceased, in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Probate Case No. 20PB05003, Laura J. Carver has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Personal Representative c/o her attorney K. Joseph Trudeau at the address set forth below, within four months after the date of first publication of this Notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or her attorney, K. Joseph Trudeau, Trudeau Law Offices, P.C., 180 West Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 428, Junction City, Oregon 97448, telephone 541-998-2378. Date of first publication: July 30, 2020.

**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** ESTATE OF MARILEE CONLEY LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 20 PB 03624 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that RYAN MITCHELL SMITH has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the personal representative, c/o Mark M. Williams, Attorney at Law, 66 Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, OR 97401-2459. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Personal Representative at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional

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Place numbers 1-9 so that each row, column and 3x3 square has each number only once.

information from the records of the Court or the Personal Representative, named above. Dated and first published 08/13/20. PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: RYAN MITCHELL SMITH, 306 Pegram St.,

Holland, TX 76536 ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Mark M. Williams, OSB#821404, 66 Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene OR 97401-2459, (541) 393-6720, mark@williams-pc.com

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# SAVAGE LOVE

**Married People**  
BY DAN SAVAGE



*I'm a 38-year-old bi woman who has been sleeping with a married male coworker for the last eight months. We're a walking cliché: I'm a nurse, he's a doctor, and one night he ended up spilling a lot of personal information about his marriage to me (sexless, non-romantic, she might be a lesbian) before asking if he could kiss me. I declined. Three months and many text messages later, I met him for drinks. The next thing I know we are falling in love and spending as much time together as we can manage. Even though he is married and has kids, this has been one of the best relationships of my adult life. He loves me in ways I never thought possible. (He even savors my COVID-19 curves.) The obvious problem here is that he is married and his wife allegedly doesn't know about his unhappiness in their marriage. We have to arrange our dates around his work schedule and his lies to his wife. I find myself becoming increasingly jealous of the time he spends with his wife and his inability to spend more time with me. I want him to confront the issues in his marriage and I want him to at least attempt being honest with her so we can figure out if it's even possible for us to move forward. My question is this: How do I have this conversation with him without it seeming like an ultimatum? I adore him and I don't think he's lying to me about his marriage. But I long to have more freedom in our relationship. I love that I finally found someone who treats me so well when we are together but my heart is breaking because our love exists in the shadows. It's a win/win for him — he gets his marriage, his kids, his "real life" and me too. But I can't even text or even call him freely and I certainly couldn't rely on him in an emergency. I want this to work. I don't necessarily want him to get divorced, Dan, as I fear it would cause him to resent me, but that would honestly be my preference. What should I do?*

**Outside The Home Exists Romance**

What are you willing to settle for, OTHER?

If you can't live without Dr. Married and you can only have him on his terms — terms he set at the start, terms designed to keep his wife in the dark — then you'll have to accept his terms. You can only see Dr. Married during office hours, you can't call or text him, and you're on your own if you have an emergency outside office hours. But agreeing to his terms at the outset doesn't obligate you to stick to his terms forever. Terms can be renegotiated. But unless you're willing to issue an ultimatum, OTHER, Dr. Married has no incentive to renegotiate the terms of your relationship.

Zooming out for a second: I get letters all the time from women who ask me how to issue an ultimatum without seeming like they're issuing an ultimatum. I don't get many letters from men like that for good and not-so-good reasons: men are socialized to feel entitled to what they want, men are praised when they ask for what they want, and consequently men are likelier to get what they want.

To get what you want, OTHER, you're gonna have to man up: feel entitled, act entitled, make demands. And you gotta be willing to walk. You have to go in fully prepared to use the leverage you actually have here — your presence in Dr. Married's life — or nothing will change. His circumstances have required you to live in the shadows if you wanted to see him and maybe that worked for you once. But it doesn't work for anymore and Dr. Married needs to understand that if his circumstances don't change — if he doesn't change them — then he's going to lose you.

There's a middle ground between divorce, your preferred circumstance, and things staying exactly as they are. Dr. Married's wife is surely aware that her marriage is sexless and non-romantic — assuming he's told you the truth — and if his wife's actually a lesbian, well, perhaps she'd like the freedom to date other women too. (Or date them openly, I should say; for all we know she's been getting some pussy on the side herself.) If they want to stay together for the kids, if they have a constructive, functional, low-conflict loving partnership, and it would be possible to daylight you without anyone having to get divorced, maybe you could settle for those terms.

*I'm a bi man in a straight marriage. We have two young children. My wife and I have been working through some relationship issues. Because of these, she has not been open to sex with me and for eighteen months our marriage has been essentially sexless. I'm not happy with this, but we are working on things. Since we stopped having sex, I have been using my wife's used panties to masturbate. I work from home and do a lot of the household work, including laundry. Every couple of weeks, I will take a couple of her panties from the laundry. I rub myself with one pair and sniff the other one. I enjoy the way the fabric feels and am turned on by knowing that they've been rubbing up against her pussy. It makes me feel very close to her. I finish by ejaculating into her panties and then I rinse them out and wash them. I'm very careful not to stain or damage them. This is something I do to feel more connected with her sexually. I don't get hard thinking that she's wearing panties I came in; I get hard thinking about coming in panties she's worn. But I worry that I'm violating her — which is not something I want to do. I know that if I were doing this with a stranger's panties, or with the panties of someone I knew but was not in an intimate relationship with, it would be at best creepy and at worst a sex crime. But she's my wife, and although we are in a hard place right now, we're trying to find our way back to each other. So, is this an acceptable way for me to get off while we work on our relationship? Or is it a violation?*

**Wonders About Nuzzling Knickers**

I'm torn, WANK.

If you and the wife were fucking, WANK, she might enjoy knowing that, however many years and two kids later, you're still so crazy about her that you're down in the laundry room perving on her dirty panties. But you aren't fucking and things are strained for reasons you didn't share. So you need to ask yourself whether this perving, if your wife were to find out about it, would set you two back. If you think it would — if, say, your wife isn't fucking you because she feels like you don't respect her opinions, her boundaries, her autonomy, etc. — then the risk (further damaging your marriage) has to outweigh the rewards (momentarily draining your sack.)

That said, WANK, if perving on your wife's panties — without damaging or staining them — is helping you remain faithful during this sexless period of your marriage... and sustaining your attraction to your wife through this difficult time... well, an argument/rationalization could be made that your wife benefits from this perving. And these aren't stolen panties — these aren't a stranger's panties or a roommate's panties — these are panties your wife hands over to you for laundering. That you derive a moment's pleasure from them on their way from laundry basket to washing machine could be self-servingly filed, I guess, under "what she doesn't know won't hurt her."

But if you feel like your wife would regard this as a violation — and I'm guessing you feel that way, WANK, since you're asking me about it and not her — then you might wanna knock it off.

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